The Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'i Faith in Sri Lanka

Annual Report

B. E. 168 - 2011/12

51st National Convention of the Baha'is of Sri Lanka

28th and 29th April 2012

National Training Institute,
Mudaliwatte,
Kadugannawa.

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First and Second movement

A number of years ago the Universal House of Justice, to aid the believers to think about the process of growth at the level of the Cluster introduced two complementary movements,

a. “The progress of an ever widening stream of individuals through the courses of the Institute represents one and it is not only responsible to give impetus to the other - also depend on its own perpetuation”.

b. “The development of the cluster discernable in the collective capacity to manifest a pattern of life in conformity with the teachings of the Faith”.

The above two movement lead towards one reality, that is to the” World order of Baha’u’llah”.

1st Movement

“At any given moment it is possible to view from one of two perspectives what occurs in the cluster as the pattern of action promoted by the five-year plan, through which is woven the fabric of a vibrant community and both perspectives are equally valid”

From one perspective an educational process with three distinct stages unfolds

1. Children - youngest members of the community

2. Junior youth - challenging transitional years

3. Youth & adults

2nd Movement

“In the other perspective one thinks in terms of the three months cycle of activity through which the community grows- a burst of expansion as a result of intense action; the necessary period of consolidation as they engage in;

1. Devotional meetings - Participate in devotional gatherings and Nineteen day feasts

2. Home visits - Receives Home visits

3. Reflection meetings - Opportunity for all to reflect and plan

At the coordination level it proves indispensable to view these two movements essentially as one reality. Doing so makes it s possible to: -

Analyze accurately,
Assess strategically
Allocate wisely
Avoid fragmentation

“In all such clusters, where demands of large-scale growth are asserting themselves, each stage of educational process promoted by the training institute must receive added support”.

- “Work of coordinator should be reinforced by assistance from growing number of experienced individuals (Meeting for exchange of information/insights become more systematic in approach)
- Periodic occasions in which the three coordinators appointed by the institute (for Study circles, junior youth, Children's classes) examine together the strength of the educational process as a whole.
- Parallel steps will be taken by the Board of the Institute for adequate flow of information, guidance and fund to reach the cluster and steps to be taken to enhance the functioning of the agencies at regional level.
- Where a mature scheme of coordination is brought in place the Auxiliary Board Members and their assistants provide assistance with even greater effectiveness”

Plan and achievement of the 1st movement

Educational core activities

STUDY CIRCLES

			No of Study Circle	Tutors	Part:	Lower Books	Higher Books
Sri Lanka	PLAN	31.03.2011	16	14	51	11	5
		PLAN	201	52	773	157	44
		INCREASE	185	38	722	146	39
	ACHIEVEMENT	31.03.2012	57	41	369	50	7
		Actual +/-	**41**	**27**	**175**	**39**	**2**
		Achievement of Plan					
		INCREASE from 31.03.2011	256%		343 %		

JUNIOR YOUTH PROGRAM

			No of Junior Youth Groups	Animators	Junior Youth	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Sri Lanka	PLAN	31.03.2011	27	22	232	27	0	0
		PLAN	128	128	1242	101	27	0
		INCREASE	101	106	1010	101	27	0
	ACHIEVEMENT	31.03.2012	55	51	544	49	6	0
		Actual +/-	**28**	**29**	**312**	**22**	**6**	**0**
		Achievement of Plan	28%					
		INCREASE from 31.03.2011	104%					

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

			Baha'i Children Class	Teachers	Children	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Sri Lanka	PLAN	31.03.2011	59	59	693	59	0	0
		PLAN	99	99	1053	80	19	0
		INCREASE	40	40	360	80	19	0
	ACHIEVEMENT	31.03.2012	87	75	990	77	10	0
		Actual +/-	**28**	**16**	**297**	**18**	**10**	**0**
		Achievement of Plan	70%		83%			
		INCREASE from 31.03.2011	47%		43%			

Plan and Achievement of the 2nd Movement

Based on the clusters located in Sri Lanka it's has been divided into three major regions Northern, Central and Western.

Northern region -
Vavuniya, Cheddikulam and Kekirawa Clusters.

Central region –
Kadugannawa, Badulla, Dickoya, Kandekatiya, Nuwara Eliya and Bandarawela Cluster.

Western region –
Colombo, Negombo, Dehiowita, Kalutara, Kaleniya and Moratuwa Clusters.

Current status of the Regions

Northern region - Vavuniya is an IPG cluster with a Cluster growth Committee and Cycle of growth. Four local Spiritual Assemblies are functioning and two Communities (Vavuniya and Ganeshpuram) are holding regular Nineteen Day Feast. Program of growths has begun in Cheddikulam and Kekirawa.

Names of the Cluster with Intensive Program of Growth and Cycle of Growth: (1.) Vavuniya

Names of the four Local Spiritual Assemblies in Northern Region:

(1.) Local Spiritual Assembly of Vavuniya
(2.) Local Spiritual Assembly of Ganeshapuram
(3.) Local Spiritual Assembly of Kumankulam
(4.) Local Spiritual Assembly of Polikandy

Central region - There are three Intensive Program of Growth clusters in this region each cluster has a cluster Growth Committee and Cycle of growth, In addition, there are four Local Spiritual Assemblies and these assemblies are holding regular Nineteen Day Feast. Three Programs of Growth has begun in this region.

Names of the Clusters with Intensive Program of Growth and Cycle of Growth: (1.) Dickoya, (2.) Badulla and (3.) Kadugannawa

Names of the three Clusters with Program of Growth: (1.) Kadekatiya, (2.) Nuwara Eliya and (3.) Bandarawela

Names of the four Local Spiritual Assemblies in Central Region:

(1.) Local Spiritual Assembly of Namunukula
(2.) Local Spiritual Assembly of Fordyce

(3.) Local Spiritual Assembly of Dickoya
(4.) Local Spiritual Assembly of Hornsey

Names of the four Communities holding Nineteen Day Feast: (1.) Namunukula, (2.) Fardyce, (3.) Dickoya and (4.) Horncey

Western Region - Six Programs of Growth has begun in clusters and three cluster growth Committees and Cycle of growth , There are four local Spiritual Assemblies (Colombo, Negombo, Moratuwa and Dehiowita) and these LSA's are holding regular Nineteen Day Feast.

Names of the Six Clusters with Program of Growth: (1.) Colombo, (2.) Negombo (3.) Dehiowita (4.) Kaluthara (5.) Moratuwa and (6.) Kelaniya.

Names of the three clusters with cluster growth Committees and Cycle of growth (1.) Colombo, (2.) Negombo and (3.)Dehiowita

Names of the four Local Spiritual Assemblies in Western Region:

(1.) Local Spiritual Assembly of Colombo
(2.) Local Spiritual Assembly of Negombo
(3.) Local Spiritual Assembly of Batangala
(4.) Local Spiritual Assembly of Mt. Laviniya

Comparing Details of achievements of 2010 - 2011 WITH 2011 - 2012

Reflection Meetings -

Reflection meetings are held beginning of the quarter to plan and implement Expansion phase of the Faith. There are four reflection meetings in cycle starting with quarter 2 to quarter 1 of the next year

	No of Clusters	**No of Participants**	**Held four reflections out of four quarters (4/4)**	**Held three reflections out of four quarters (4/3)**	**Held two reflections out of four quarters (4/2)**	**Held one reflections out of four quarters (4/1)**
31/3/2010 to 31/3/2011	5	-	2	2	0	1
31/3/20	7	Q1 Par:	3	3	1	0

11 to 31/3/2012		126				

During last year (31 March 2010 to 31 March 2011) five clusters have held reflection meetings. Out of these five clusters two clusters (Badulla and Colombo) have held four reflection meetings. While two clusters (Dickoya and Kadugannawa) have held three reflection meetings. Vavuniya cluster had only one reflection meeting. Details of the Participants are not available.

During this year (1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012) Total eight clusters have held reflection meetings. Out of these eight clusters three (Badulla, Colombo and Negombo) clusters have held four reflection meetings while three clusters (Dickoya, Vavuniya and Dehiowita) held three reflection meetings. The remaining cluster (Kadugannawa) held two reflections.

Teaching

	No of Baha'is participated to the teaching activities	**Teaching Goal**	**Enrolments**	**Entered into Institute Process**
31/3/2010 to 31/3/2011	-	-	127	-
31/3/2011 to 31/3/2012	335	-	121	143

In the field of teaching last year (31/3/2010 to 31/3/2011) 127 souls accepted the Faith of Baha'u'llah, details of Number of Baha'i Participated engaged in teaching teams and Goals are not available.

During this year (31/3/2011 to 31/3/2012) 121 Souls accepted the Faith In the teaching programs 335 Believers participated. Details of teaching teams and goals are not available. 143 friends entered into Institute Presses

Devotional Gathering

	No of Location	No of Devotionals	No of Participants	No of Baha'is participated to
31/3/2010 to 31/3/2011	-	94	733	-
31/3/2011 to 31/3/2012	113	118	1074	268

As regards the devotional Gatherings are concerned last year (31/3/2010 to 31/3/2011) 94 Devotional Gatherings ware held with the participation of 733 friends' details of Baha'is and Location of these gatherings are not available.

This year (31/3/2011 to 31/3/2012) 118 Devotional Gatherings ware held with the participation of 1074 at 113 locations out of those 1074 participants 268 are Baha'is.

Summary of the Goal and achievements of the year 2011/12 from all Clusters

	Regular Devotional Meetings		Enrolments	Teaching Teams	Cycle of Activities
	# RDM	Attendance			
Goal 2011-2012	208	1664	510	33	7
Achievements as at 31 March, 2012	118	1074	121	34	7
Variance	-90	-590	-389	+1	=

Regular Devotional Meetings - Out of 208 Devotional Meetings we were able achieve 118 Devotional Gatherings with the participation of 1074 against 1664.

Enrolments - Although our objective was 510, 121 souls accepted the Faith.

Teaching Teams - Our aim was 33 and we were able to deploy 34 teaching teams on the field.

Cycle of Activities - As planned the expansion and consolidation activities are being moving forward.

Delegate elections (2012 March - B.E. 169)

Table: Electoral Unit Information

Name of Electoral Unit	Number of:					Total number of ballots cast
	Delegates allocated	Local Assemblies	Adult believers entered into SRP	Adult believers attended unit convention and casting ballots	Absentee ballots cast	
Kandy and Matale District	2	0	40	12	4	16
Kegalla & Rathnapura Districts and Awissawella Electorate	1	0	34	7	3	10
Haputhale,Koslanda, Greenland, Bullakatuwa, Galapitakanda, Goweregala, Hindagala UD & FD	1	0	52	2	4	6
Cannavarella, Maymaly, Moussagalla, Spring-Valley, 13 Mile Post, Kotagoda. Kandahena, Tonnacomb, Pingarawa Est.., & F. Div.., Badullawatte & Namunukula, Monaragala and Ampara Dis: Kandekatiya, Park Estate, Eltop, Passara, Gonagala & Hoptan	2	1	291	11	2	13
Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Trinkomalee Districts	1	0	14	7	1	8
Fordyce, Tillery, Hornsey & Bathford Darrawala, Wanaraja, Dickoya & Manikkawatte	2	3	524	11	2	13
Adamspeak, Norwood, Bogawanthalawa & Theresia Nuwara Eliya, Lindula, Pathana & Hatton etc.	1	0	84	5	0	5
Jaffna, Mannar, Kilinochchi, Mulathiw Districts & Vavuniya UC	1	2				
Ganeshapuram etc.	1	2	65	9	1	10
Katkulam etc.	1	0	69	4	1	5
Electorates of Negombo, Minuwangoda, Ja-ela,& North western province	2	1	20	11	3	14
Wattala, Mahara, Kelaniya, Biyagama & Gampaha	1	0	31	7	0	7

Electroretes of Moratuwa, Ratmalana, Dehiwala & Kaduwela. Kluthara District & Southern province.	1	1	20	10	0	10
Colombo Municipal Council, and the electorates of Homagma, Maharagama , Kesbewa & Kotte	2	1	34	8	6	14
Total:	**19**	**11**	**1278**	**104**	**27**	**131**

The country has been divided into 14 units based on the Activities and Baha'is spread across each unit, and there are 11 Local Spiritual assemblies. Out of these 14 units we allocated 19 delegates to the National Convention. And 1278 Ballots were sent to the believers and out of these 104 believers cast their ballots attending to Unit convention and 27 believers sent their ballots through Auxiliary Board Members. Totally 131 believers cast their ballots out of 1278 believers.

Progress of the IPG & PG clusters

1. Progress of the IPG Clusters

Comparing Statistics of progress of the IPG Clusters; 31, March 2011 with 31 March 2012 - (Vavuniya, Dickoya, Badulla and Kadugannawa)

	STUDY CIRCLES			JUNIOR YOUTH PROGRAM			CHILDREN'S EDUCATION			DEVOTIONAL MEEETINGS	
	No of Study Circle	Tutors	Part:	No of Junior Youth Groups	Animators	Junior Youth	Baha'i Children Class	Teachers	Children	No of Devotional Meetibngs	Attendance
31.03.2011	12	10	38	17	14	150	41	41	498	87	652
31.03.2012	36	31	127	36	34	329	64	52	801	102	916
Progress +/-	**24**	**21**	**89**	**19**	**20**	**179**	**23**	**11**	**303**	**15**	**264**

2. Progress of the PG Clusters

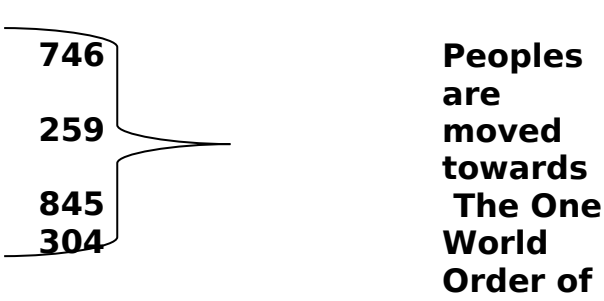
Comparing Statistics of progress of the PG Clusters; 31, March 2011 with 31 March 2012 - (Colombo, Negombo, Dehiowita, Nuwara Eliya, Kekirawa, Kandekatiya, Kelaniya, Haldumulla and Moratuwa)

	STUDY CIRCLES			JUNIOR YOUTH PROGRAM			CHILDREN'S EDUCATION			DEVOTIONAL MEEETINGS	
	No of Study Circle	Tutors	Part:	No of Junior Youth Groups	Animators	Junior Youth	Baha'i Children Class	Teachers	Children	No of Devotional Meetibngs	Attendance
31.03.2011	2	2	7	10	8	82	18	18	195	18	193
31.03.2012	20	9	45	24	22	254	22	21	189	16	158
Progress +/-	**18**	**7**	**38**	**14**	**14**	**172**	**4**	**3**	**-6**	**-2**	**-35**

Comparing how the Sri Lankan population is moving towards the vision of Bahaullah

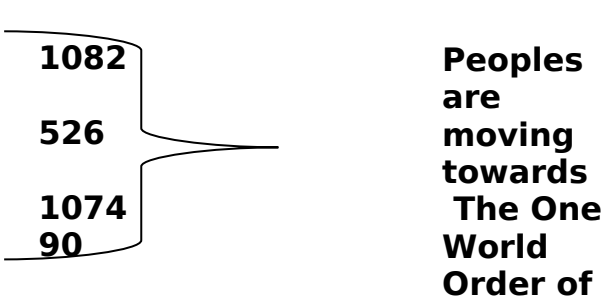
1. **During 31/3/2010 to 31/3/2011**

Moving population


1. From Children Classes Teachers and Children → 746
2. From Junior Youth program Animators and youths → 259
2154
3. From Devotionals → 845
4. From Study Circles → 304
Peoples are moved towards The One World Order of

2. **During 31/3/2011 to 31/3/2012**

Moving population


5. From Children Classes Teachers and Children → 1082
6. From Junior Youth program Animators and youths → 526
2772
7. From Devotionals → 1074
8. From Study Circles → 90
Peoples are moving towards The One World Order of

Translation & Pulication

Under the Translation and Publication Department we were able to translate and print the following materials.

1. Prayer Book in Tamil / 1000 Copies.
2. Home visit pamphlet in Sinhala (Life of Bahaullah, Unity, Fund and The Eternal Covenant.) / 2000 copies each.
3. Pocket Calendars for year 2012 / 2000 Copies.

4. Ruhi Book one in Sinhala Reprint / 1000 Copies

The following Books will be translated before end of March 2013:

1 - Kitab-i-Aqdas
2 - Some Answered Questions
3 - Memorials of the Faithful and
4 - Traveler's Narrative, to be completed by end August 2012

And the following Books and pamphlet will be Re- print and publish before end of next Ridvan 2013:

- 1 New Garden
- 2 Hidden Words
- 3 Prayer Books – Large and small
- 4 Pamphlet on Prayer
- 5 Prayer Cards
- 6 Short Obligatory Prayer
- 7 Home Visit Pamphlets (The rest of two pamphlet out of six)

Various fields of the National Assembly.

Pilgrimage Coordinator

As Baha'i World Centre increased the number of pilgrims from the Ridvan 2011 the National Spiritual Assembly has appointed a Pilgrimage coordinator to consolidate and arrange low budget travels for groups

External Affairs activities

National Baha'i Web-site
'

The Assembly was able to launch the web-site for Sri Lanka; this is still under construction and will be able to view soon.

- http://www.bahai.lk

National Facilitator's Team; Achievements and their future plan

The National Facilitators team was appointed in the first quarter of 2012 to follow up on the expansion phase and for accompaniment of the Cluster Growth Committees. As per the mandate given by the National Assembly, the team commenced their duties with the Cluster Growth Committees at the last cycle of the Baha'i Era 168 2011-2012.

Areas allocated under the 3 member team is as follows :

1) Dickoya, Dehiowita, Nuwara Eliya and Colombo;
2) Kadugannawa, Vavuniya, Badulla and Kekirawa;
3) Western Region.

The teams visited the clusters at the time of the Reflection Meetings held in Q1 & Q2, 2012 to follow up on the expansion phase teaching projects and Devotional Meetings. They also visited a few clusters before and after the reflection meetings and stayed in the cluster to observe the Devotional Meetings and sharing insights to ensure quality of devotionals and also consistency are maintained.

The team plans to regularly participate in the Reflection Meetings in the above clusters during the Q2, 2012. They also plan to stay a few days in the clusters to accompany and follow up and friends in the expansion phase, devotionals and Home Visits. Thereafter a review meeting would be conducted to study the achievements of the teaching phase and also evaluate on the activities of the cluster,

External News

- During the period of 29th August to 4th September of 2011 Counselor Mr. Omid visited Sri Lanka and Visited Negombo, Vavuniya, Kadugannawa, Dickoya, Badulla and Colombo clusters and each clusters Cluster Growth Committees had arranged reflection Gathering, Total 241 friends participated at these gatherings from all 7 clusters

- The Assembly held 25 meetings for the Baha'i Era 168 (2011-2012) and the attendance of the member's turnover was 80%

Funds

Study Programs

- 26 Friends participated in the Bangalore conference to study the messages of 28th December 2010, 1 January 2011 and Ridvan 2010 on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of April 2011 , Counselor's/ITC member Mr. Praveen Malik were among the members at this conference, it was first time in the history we had **xxxx** friends participating in a conference overseas.

- 4 friends participated in the Institutional study program held in Villupuram and Kadaluru, India on 6th to 15th of March, 2011. Along with the guidance of Counselor Mr. Omid selected passages from the 28th December 2010 and Ruhi Book 1, 2, 6, and 7 were studied

- 28th December 2010 Message was studied with Counselor Mr. Omid Seioshanseian on the 27th-28th April, approximately 35 friends participated.

- During the period of 07th to 12th August 2011, 5 friends participated to the study program held in the Thirunalweli, India. It was mainly organized for Children Classes Coordinators to undergo Study the new revised materials of Children Class.

- Central study camp for Ruhi Book 8 was Conduct by Counselor Mr. Omid Seioshanseian for 30 friends in both Sinhala and Tamil mediums from the 12th March to 15th March 2012.

- 12th December 2011 Message was studied with National Spiritual Assembly members, Auxiliary board members and coordinators on the 17th March 2012,

- 50 Friends participated in the Institutional Meeting held on 23rd - 25th of December 2011 at the National Training Institute, Kadugannawa. Along with the Guidance of Counselor Mr. Omid Seioshanseian friends studied selected Passages from the 28 December 2010 Message and plan was prepared for the first quarter of 2012

- International Teaching Centre Member Ms. Uranshaikan Baatar and Counselor Mr. Omid Seioshanseian visited Sri Lanka on 21st and 22nd of February 2012. During their visit the National Spiritual Assembly arranged an institutional gathering at the Baha'i National Center, Colombo. The theme of the program was on the first and second movements towards the world order of Baha'u'llah. A Total of 50 friends participated n the program.